

**Written Testimony Supporting  
Proposed House Bill 7285, An Act Concerning Complaints That Allege Misconduct By Law Enforcement  
Agency Personnel**

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Aigné Goldsby, and I am a resident of Ellington, CT. While I am unable to give testimony in person, I wanted to submit this written testimony in support of Proposed House Bill 7285, which is intended to ensure compliance with the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 7-294bb concerning process and investigations of public complaints that relate to misconduct of law enforcement personnel.

Not only is this bill important to me as an attorney, who strongly supports the work of law enforcement as a commissioner of the superior court, but it is also very important for me as a resident of Ellington when it comes uniformity. One thing that is unique about living in Ellington, is that we do not have our own Ellington Police Department, and instead go through the resident trooper of the Connecticut State Police. Having one standard state wide policy form would make the process much easier, and more accessible to the public; especially to residents in a Town such as Ellington that would not have a local police department to go to.

Proposed House Bill 7285 does a great job of pointing out some of the flaws in the police complaint process, but takes the much needed step beyond mere recognition, and would actually fix what is currently broken. I therefore support the intention of Proposed House Bill 7285, and further ask this committee to amend this bill so that its intent is fully realized. The ACLU of Connecticut's recent survey clearly shows that many Connecticut police agencies still have complaint processes that are difficult to many members of the public, including myself. It is clear that we must amend H.B. 7285 to:

- 1) establish penalties for law enforcement agencies that are not in compliance with state complaint acceptance and investigation laws,
- 2) create a standardized or uniform complaint form that complies with best practices and translated into all commonly-spoken languages in Connecticut, and
- 3) require law enforcement agencies to track complaint data and to annually report specific complaint information to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Establishing a transparent, accessible police complaint process is necessary for creating a truly fair and just police force in Connecticut—one that community members like me can trust and depend on. Amending H.B. 7285 will encourage the community's faith in the police complaint process and ensure that we are holding our law enforcement agencies accountable.

I strongly encourage the members of this committee to amend and support Proposed House Bill 7285.

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